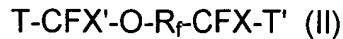


## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) Hydrofluoroethers of formula:



wherein:

T = CH<sub>3</sub>;

X, X', equal to or different from each other, are selected between F, CF<sub>3</sub>;

T' = F, Cl, H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> perfluoroalkyl, CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, COCl, CHO, CO<sub>2</sub>H;

R<sub>f</sub> is selected from:

- C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>15</sub> perfluoroalkylene;
- -(C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>4</sub>O)<sub>m</sub>(CF<sub>2</sub>CF(CF<sub>3</sub>)O)<sub>n</sub>(CF<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>p</sub>(CF(CF<sub>3</sub>)O)<sub>q</sub>-

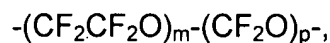
wherein

the sum n+m+p+q ranges from 2 to 200,

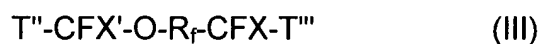
the (p+q)/(m+n+p+q) ratio is lower than or equal to 10:100, preferably comprised between 0.5:100 and 4:100, the n/m ratio ranges from 0.2 to 6, preferably from 0.5 to 3; m, n, p, q are equal to or different from each other and when m, n range from 1 to 100, preferably from 1 to 80, then p, q range from 0 to 80, preferably from 0 to 50; the units with n, m, p, q indexes being statistically distributed along the chain;

- -(CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>r</sub>- wherein r ranges from 2 to 200,
- -(CF(CF<sub>3</sub>)CF<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>s</sub>- wherein s ranges from 2 to 200 [[,] ] .

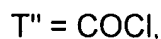
2. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A ~~process~~ Hydrofluoroethers according to claim 1, wherein  $R_f$  is selected from the following structures:



3. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the formula (II) compounds of claim 1 comprising the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors:



wherein:



$X, X', R_f$  are as defined in formula (II) of claim 1, carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum, ~~preferably on metal fluorides, preferably in the presence of inert solvents,~~ at a temperature in the range 20°C-150°C, ~~preferably 80°C-120°C,~~ at a pressure between 1 and 50 atm, ~~preferably between 1 and 10 atm.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the metal fluorides are selected from the group formed by  $CaF_2, BaF_2, MgF_2, AlF_3$ , ~~more preferably~~  $CaF_2$ .

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the Pt concentration on the support is comprised ~~between~~ between 0.1% and 10% with respect to the total weight of the catalyst, ~~preferably between 1% and 2% by weight.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount in the range 1%-100% , ~~preferably 10%-100%~~ by weight with respect to the weight of the formula (III) compound.

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the inert solvent is selected among perfluorotetrahydrofuran, perfluorotetrahydropyran, or their mixtures.

8. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 1, wherein the  $(p+q)/(m+n+p+q)$  ratio is between 0.5:100 and 4:100.

9. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 1, wherein the n/m ratio ranges from 0.5 to 3.

10. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 1, wherein when m, n range from 1 to 80, then p, q range from 0 to 80.

11. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 10, wherein when m, n range from 1 to 80, then p, q range from 0 to 50.

12. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors is carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum on metal fluorides.

13. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors is carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum in the presence of inert solvents.

14. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the temperature is in the range 80°C-120°C.

15. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the pressure is between 1 and 10 atm.

16. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein the metal fluorides are  $\text{CaF}_2$ .

17. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the Pt concentration on the support is comprised between 1% and 2% by weight with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.

18. (New) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount in the range 10%-100% by weight with respect to the weight of the formula (III) compound.